

Cable UCC NEWSLETTER

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December 2025

A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

by Maren C. Tirabassi

God, as we gather into Advent, let me embrace the Nativity
so that I can embrace those near to me and far away,
for my own strength is not enough.

On every day of Advent,
let me light all four candles of the Wreath, (at least in my mind)
and sit with hope, peace, joy, and love, just for a moment
so I can respond to what someone may need, and to what I may need.

Let me sing a carol or two every day
not waiting for the human-dated holiday
so a sweet song, a soft one, or one bright as a bell,
come quick to my tongue.

Let me read the old texts often, as friends, not lessons in candles,
reflect on each aspect to face realities coming this year,
with calm, courage, trust.

And to recognize, on the very personal level,
someone who's life has been upended by an angel ...
or who's lost sight of a star ...
sings about holy justice ...
works through the night ...
or is at the juncture between shutting a door
or offering a manger.

Center me in this Advent season,
so I expect Christmas to surprise me every day.
Amen



Celebrate Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Dec. 14 "Blue Christmas" during 10am worship.

Dec. 21 UCC Singers, 2nd Annual Cantata during worship.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 4:30

*(The memorial tree will be illuminated along with the dedication
of the Xmas food boxes at the Christmas Eve Service)*

let every
HEART
prepare him
ROOM

2nd Chapter Christmas Sale

Saturday, December 6th

9:00 am - 1:00 pm



PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ITEMS WILL NOT BE PRICED.

ALL PROCEEDS ARE GOOD WILL DONATIONS TO RAISE MONEY FOR DRUMMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO EXPAND CURRICULAR RESOURCES AND PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH MORE HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES.

Thirty two families visited the food shelf in November. St. Ann's had many volunteers to help them. Turkeys, turkey breasts and other holiday fare were distributed.

The ATV Fun in the Forest event held at Lakewoods provided the food shelf with almost 345 lbs of food. The local ATV club will be providing 30 hams for distribution in December.

We appreciate all the generosity from our community!



Pictured in photo: Diana Randolph, Judith Benedict, Kasse Tomasula, and Chris Radloff (food shelf volunteer).

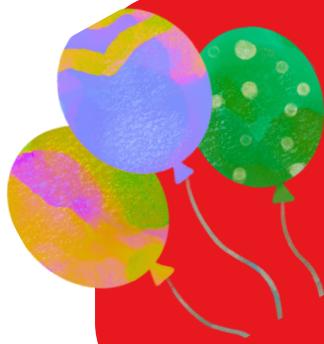
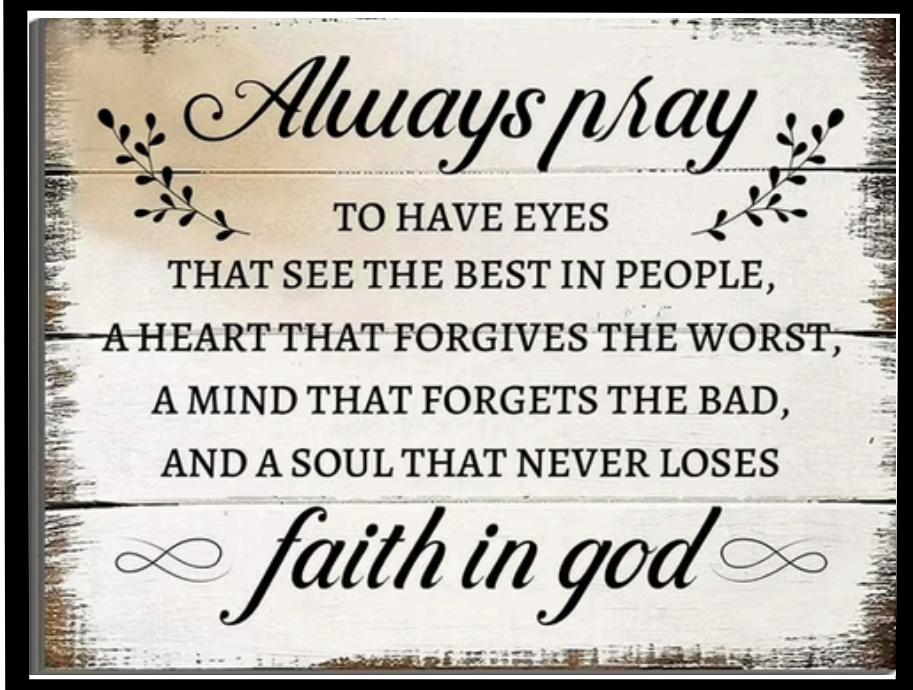
Photo by Barb Larson

CABLE AREA FOOD SHELF



Little Free Food Pantry

On November 21st, the Ski and Tea outdoor exercise group held their annual Turkey Trot 5K event that started at The North End Cabin. All the club participants brought food or monetary donations to this event for the Cable Area Food Shelf and/or Hayward Area Community Food Shelf. Club members Diana Randolph and Kasse Tomasula delivered monetary donations and 138.8 pounds of food to the Cable Area Food Shelf collected at the Turkey Trot event.



December Birthdays

Larry Sanderson, 12/1
Barb Bellis, 12/3
Kristine Lendved, 12/3
Tracy Krueger, 12/5
Ron Caple, 12/7
Jim Brakken, 12/11
Andy Arthur, 12/12

Al Gillberg, 12/17
Jackie Hopfensperger, 12/20
John Rosebush, 12/20
Nancy Rabe, 12/24
Pat Jensen, 12/27
Carolyn Anderson, 12/28
Stacey McKinney, 12/30

Cable UCC Reverse Advent Calendar

Give a little something every day.

Get a big something in return,
knowing that you are sharing and
caring with our neighbors in need.

A listing of the daily suggested
offerings can be found on **page 12**



Let's light the annual UCC
Memorial Christmas Tree with
LOVE!



Donations of \$5 per light
in honor and/or memory of loved
ones will help it glow brightly.

A form for such offerings can
be found on **page 11** of this
issue, as well as at church.



Take Note

Dec 7th - UCC Singers - Coming of Joy
 Dec 14th - Ron Gran
 Dec 21st - 2nd Annual Cantata Service
 with UCC Percussion group StiX
 Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight

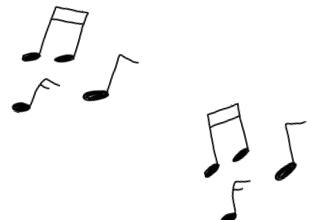
We are always looking for Special Music for Sunday morning worship. If anyone would like to share any sort of music, please reach out to Helen Zasada, 612.710.355 or Helenmzasada@gmail.com.

ALL MUSIC & MUSICIANS ARE WELCOME, NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!!



John Rosebush, Tracey Krueger, Ron Ulmer and Kris Cooper share their musical talents during worship services.

THANK YOU!



Congratulations to these six students from DHS, including Manny Milam on the trombone, who participated in the NWMA All-Conference Band in November.

DHS Proud!
Congratulations to All



"It is cheerful to God when you rejoice or laugh from the bottom of your heart."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.



Smiling with Carol



A neighborhood squabble brought several women to court, each eager to tell the judge why the whole thing was someone else's fault. "One at a time, ladies," said the judge. "You'll each be given a chance to testify. I'll hear the oldest among you first."

The case was dismissed for lack of evidence.



The real reason solar energy has never made it as a substitute for gas and electricity is that the utility companies still haven't figured out a way to put a meter on the sun.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST...

64

April 7, 1920

The annual meeting of the First Congregational Church of Coke was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Greenup. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the clerk, and on motion Mr. Melvin was elected chairman.

Minutes of meeting of March 10, 1919 read and adopted.

The clerk reported the loss of two members by letter during the past year, leaving a total membership of 51 and 12 non-resident members.

The report of the treasurer showed \$50.54 on hand Jan 1st, 1920. The minutes were accepted subject to the report of the auditors.

The Ladies Aid gave a report of a successful year, both financially and otherwise. They reported \$109.58 on hand Jan 1st. Report accepted, subject to approval by the auditors.

"...an interesting report from the annual meeting on April 7, 1920 (105 years ago!). After losing two members, membership stands at 51. The treasurer reports \$50.54 on hand. That's fifty - not fifty thousand!"

It appears the Lady's Aid group has \$109.58. Like today, the ladies seem to raise the most money!"

Thank you, John Uffenbeck, for these fun snapshots of UCC history!

Thoughts from Pastor Phil



Learning How to See

by Rev. Dr. Brian D. McLaren

Over the last decade, I have felt increasingly alarmed about the vitriol, distrust, and destructive miscommunication that are tearing people apart everywhere I turn ... in nations, in religious communities, in businesses, in non-profit organizations, in friendships, even in families.

On social media, name-calling, misinformation, and propaganda squeeze out intelligent, honest, respectful conversation. In the mass media, accusations of 'fake news' fly in all directions, leaving people wondering who to trust. In the world of religion, shallow, mean-spirited, or profit-hungry preachers draw huge crowds week after week, and they consistently appeal, not to the better angels of human nature, but to our unspoken fears and unacknowledged prejudices.

In the world of politics, uninformed, dishonest, and manipulative candidates keep winning elections, telling people not what they need to hear, but what they want to hear. Because of our polarization and paralysis, major problems are going unresolved, which intensifies frustration on all sides, and leaves (literally) billions of us vulnerable to populist demagogues. The social fabric seems to be stretching so tight that it might rip apart. That scares me. "What's going on here?" I keep asking myself.

Philosopher George Lakoff challenges the mistaken idea that arose during the Enlightenment that it is possible to see issues clearly, based entirely on reason: Enlightenment reason says everybody reasons the same way.... Enlightenment reason says that all you need to do is get the facts, and everybody will reason to the right conclusion, since everybody has the same reason. No. If they have different worldviews, they'll reason to different conclusions. Enlightenment reason does not recognize different worldviews. Enlightenment reason doesn't admit framing. It doesn't admit metaphorical thought. It doesn't admit the way people really work.

Here's the simple truth I began to see as I observed the decline in reasonableness, monitored the rise in dysfunctional and even dangerous discourse, and reviewed the academic literature:
People can't see what they can't see.

We all, yes, even me—and more shockingly, even you, have a whole set of assumptions and limitations, prejudices and preferences, likes, dislikes and triggers, fears and conflicts of interest, blind spots and obsessions that keep us from seeing what we could and would see if we didn't have them. We are almost always unconscious of these internal obstacles to seeing and understanding, which makes it even harder for us to address them. We are, you might say, blind to what blinds us. The name for these unconscious internal obstacles is bias.

Bias makes us resist and reject messages we should accept and accept messages we should resist and reject. In short ... we can't see what we can't see because our biases get in the way. (1)

Something to think about.

Many Blessings on the Journey,
Pastor Phil

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(1) McLaren, Brian D., from *Why Don't They Get It? Overcoming Bias in Others (and Yourself)* rev. ed. (self-published, 2019, 2024) pgs. 4-5, 9-10

Found in Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations: November 17, 2025

Thankyou!

- Thank you to all who helped make our Harvest Home Dinner a fun evening to share. Special thanks to Trish Kruse and Shelly Wilson for taking the lead on this special vent.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." –

Muhammad Ali

- *A huge round of applause for Chef Doug who shared his culinary talents with us at the Harvest Home Dinner. We are several pounds heavier because of it, with grins of gratefulness on our faces.*
- *A note of appreciation to Bob Rasmussen for donating the turkeys that we all so enjoyed at the Harvest Home Dinner.*
- *Thank you to the Men's Fellowship for getting the Christmas trees set up and to Women's Fellowship for decorating them. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"*
- **Thank you to Mimi Crandall for orchestrating the decorating of the sanctuary for the holidays. Your artistic eye results in seasonal splendor throughout!**



Harvest Home Dinner



FREE

WINTER JACKET STRAVAGANZA

at Cable United Church of Christ
13445 Cty. Hwy. M
Now through December 31st



We would like to offer *free* jackets to anyone in need of staying warm this winter.
Men's, women's and children's jackets are available.
The church will be open from 7 am - 8pm to fit your needs.
All jackets will be located in the church basement.

Any questions or assistance, contact Cheri at
715.558.8481 or Pastor Phil at 715.798.3066.

Cable Senior Dining *Come and join us!*

**Site opens at 11:30 am
Lunch at 12:00 pm**

Suggested contribution amount is
\$3.00 - \$5.00 per meal.
All contributions are used to fund the
program.

Menu for Monday, 12/1

**Lasagna
Cucumber Salad
Apple
Garlic Bread
Dessert
Milk and Coffee**

Menu for Monday, 12/15

**Stuffed Pork Tenderloin
Baked Squash
Mashed Potatoes
Dressing
Cranberries
Pumpkin Dessert
Milk and Coffee**



**Winter
has arrived in Cable**



photos from a North End Ski Club Facebook posting,

11/28/2025

UCC Board

Board members: Moderator Mike Most, Treasurer Barb Mika, Pastor Phil Milam, Music Coordinator Helen Zasada, Terry Dahmen, Karen Gran, Teri Hanson, Beda McKinney, Cheri Olson Binder, Scott Smith, Shelly Wilson

The board met on Monday, November 10th.

- Pastor Phil will be on vacation on December 28th. Helen Zasada will lead the worship service.
- More folks might be more inclined to signup for providing goodies after worship service if refreshments weren't anything elaborate. Donut holes would be just fine. This will be announced during church service.
- A seven foot balsam artificial tree donation has been accepted to be used this year.
- Budget requests for music (\$750) and maintenance (\$6500) were made.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, December 8th, for budget approval only.

Maintenance Committee

This group has been hard at work, keeping our church in tip-top shape. Here are some things that they're busy doing:

- Researching a new provider for the furnace.
- Painting in the kitchen and the basement great room ceiling will be done.
- Lining up piano tuning two times per year by Stan Zealand.
- Clearing the storage room in the basement of papers and books, so that it can be used for coat storage, as well as altar and pulpit supplies/decorations.
- Getting prepared for winter snow and ice, salting and sanding will be done as needed on church sidewalks.

Men's Fellowship



This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, along with good conversations. They will meet on Wednesday, December 10th. There is no uniform dress code, but these two fine fellows missed the call on that. Lol!

Picture from Dale Kruse

Women's Fellowship

Ladies are welcome to join our UCC Women's Fellowship monthly meetings, held on the first Thursday of every month, September thru June. Coffee and goodies are at 9:30am with the meeting following at 10:00. This group enjoys conversations about our church and social events. We welcome any new ideas, suggestions for projects, opportunities to volunteer. — Please join us.

- No meeting in December. Instead, decorating the church for the holidays and setting up for the 2nd Chapter Garage Sale will be on Thursday, December 4th. Come and help if you can.
- The Women's Fellowship holiday party will be at Lakewoods on Thursday, January 8th, 2026. There will be a meeting beforehand, at 10:30, with a buffet lunch following at 11:30. Cost is \$10.00/per person. Carpooling from UCC is an option. Arrive at church at 10:00, leaving shortly thereafter for Lakewoods.
- A vote was taken by secret ballot during the November meeting, with the results being overwhelming not to have the Country Store/Salad Luncheon in 2026.

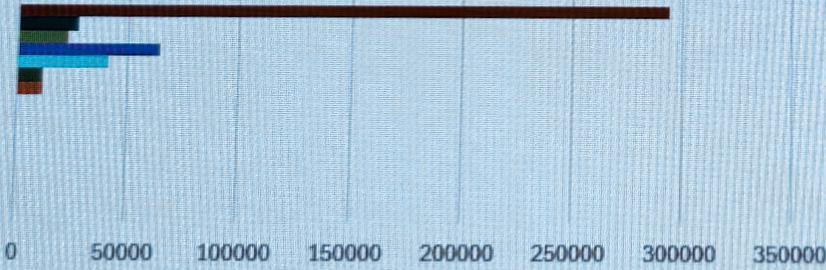
UCC Financial Status, submitted by Church Treasurer, Barbara Mika

United Church of Christ
Cable, WI

Accounts	11/30/2025	2025		
		P&L	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Checking - CVB	\$10,903.88			
Savings - CVB	\$11,665.82	Income	\$ 169,502.39	\$ 155,581.12
WF Checking - CVB	\$40,551.24	Expenses	\$ 150,378.00	\$ 155,581.12
Vanguard (Fiorio)	\$63,990.92	Net	\$ 19,124.39	\$ -
Money Market Ckg (Fiorio)	\$22,143.64			
UCC Funds Capital Reserve(860400)	\$26,730.31			
Endowment (860401)	\$294,449.18			
	<u><u>\$470,434.99</u></u>			
			11/30/25 P & L	
			200000	
			150000	
			100000	
			50000	
			0	

Oct numbers, statements received 2 weeks into the next month

Cash & Investment Accounts



- Endowment (860401)
- Money Market Ckg (Fiorio)
- WF Checking - CVB
- Checking - CVB
- UCC Funds Capital Reserve(860400)
- Vanguard (Fiorio)
- Savings - CVB



2025 Memorial Christmas Tree

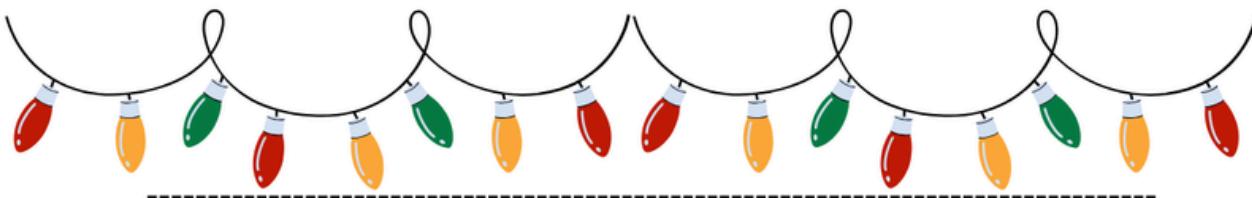
Why do we have a Memorial Tree? Well, intertwined with the joy of the Christmas season there are also moments of grief. It is a time of year when we may be missing someone special. The Memorial Tree gives each of us the opportunity to remember that significant person or to honor someone special who is still in our lives today.

You're invited to offer a donation of \$5 per light either in "memory of" someone who has passed away or "in honor of" someone who is still living. Your donation will help us continue our mission of sharing God's love and ministry of extravagant welcome. A donation form has been included below. Please mail your check and completed form to the church or put it in the offering basket on Sunday Morning.

Our Memorial Tree lighting ceremony will be on Christmas Eve at 4:30PM during the worship service. Thank you in advance for your support.

Have a Merry Christmas!
Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Phil

Cable United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 279
Cable WI 54821



Cable United Church of Christ Memorial Tree Donation Form

Donation of \$_____ Donated by_____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Remembrance of _____



Cable United Church of Christ

Reverse Advent Calendar

A fun way to care, share and
celebrate the season!

Each day add an item to a box or bag. Then on
Christmas Eve, bring your bag/box to Cable
UCC and we will bless them during the
Christmas Eve Service.

December 1	Box of cereal
December 2	Stuffing mix
December 3	Pasta and pasta sauce
December 4	Canned tuna or salmon
December 5	Box of crackers
December 6	Rice or rice mix
December 7	Can of soup or stew
December 8	Canned vegetable
December 9	Pancake mix and syrup
December 10	Canned chicken or ham/spam
December 11	Pretzels or chips
December 12	Canned fruit or applesauce
December 13	Oatmeal or instant oatmeal
December 14	Ketchup, mustard, mayo, or salad dressing
December 15	Salt, pepper, or season mix
December 16	Instant potatoes or scalloped potatoes
December 17	Hamburger helper or tuna helper
December 18	Chocolate or candy
December 19	Baking item (muffin mix, cake mix, flour, sugar)
December 20	Cooking oil or spray oil
December 21	Paper product (bath tissue, paper towel, tissues)
December 22	Peanut butter and/or jam
December 23	Loaf of bread
December 24	Coffee, hot chocolate mix, or tea

After the service, boxes will be put out in the Fellowship Hall.
Those in need are invited to come and pick a box up
anytime between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.